



Item 2

Workplan and organization of work for the Working Group on Development in 2015-2016

**Presentation by Mr. Chris Dijkens,
Chair of the Working Group on Development**

5th meeting of the Working
Group on Development

11-13 May 2015
Geneva





Background

- COP-7 (Nov. 2012) requested the Working Group on Development (WGD), among others, to evaluate a list with possible amendments to the Convention
- 2 meetings of the WGD in the biennium 2013-2014:
 - WGD-3, 3-4 September 2013
 - WGD-4, 28-29 April 2014
- Small group established by the Bureau to support the WGD in evaluating other possible amendments





Recommendations to COP-8

✓ **Elaboration of amendments**

- WGD proposed „yes“ or „no“ with regard to the need for an amendment in the list of provisions and issues with which COP-7 it had mandated

✓ **Development of guidance**

- WGD proposed that certain items that were evaluated as not requiring an amendment should be further addressed by means of COP guidance

✓ **Consideration of opening**

- WGD suggested that due to the strategic nature of the topic, a thorough discussion should take place at COP-8

⇒ **COP-8 (Dec. 2014) agreed with this assessment and on this basis mandated the Working Group on Development**





CoP-8 mandate to WGD: Amendments

✓ **Elaboration of amendments on:**

- Revised and additional definitions (art. 1)
- Strengthened public participation (art. 9)
- Clarified frequency of meetings (art. 18, para 1)
- Application of amendments to new Parties (art. 29)

⇒ Changes to related provisions of and annexes to the Convention should also be considered

⇒ **Priority over the development of guidance**





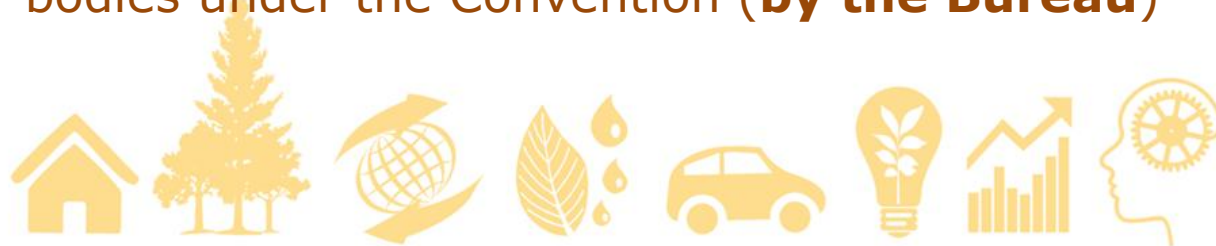
CoP-8 mandate to WGD: Guidance

✓ Development of guidance on:

- Provisions related to land-use planning
- Clarifying the scope of mutual assistance
- Provisions on the review of compliance (in cooperation with the Working Group on Implementation)

⇒ COP-8 requested other bodies to develop further guidance:

- ❑ Clarified or strengthened reporting obligations with regard to periodicity, public accessibility and other issues (**by WGI**)
- ❑ Preparation of updated Terms of Reference of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention (**by the Bureau**)





CoP-8 mandate to WGD: Opening

✓ Consideration of opening

- Prepare draft text on opening the Convention (art. 29) for COP-9
- Continue considering potential benefits and challenges, including possible budgetary implications, of opening the Convention
- Present the outcome of those considerations to COP-9





Proposed organization of work

- 3 meetings of the Working Group on Development
 - WGD-5, 11-13 May 2015
 - WGD-6, 30 November-2 December 2015
 - WGD-7, 11-14 April 2016
- Establishment of 2 small groups to support the work of the WGD intersessionally
 - Small group of legal experts
 - Small group of experts on land-use planning





Workplan for 2015-2016: Amendments

- Priority over the development of guidance
- To meet the ambitions set by Parties, the following workplan is suggested:
 - **WGD-5:** Discuss draft text for the amended articles, agree on updates to be made
 - **WGD-6:** Review the updated draft amendments and agree on the text for submission to and review by COP-9
 - WGD-7: (buffer)
- Support by small group of legal experts





Workplan for 2015-2016: Guidance

- For consideration and adoption at COP-9 (if feasible)
- **WGD-5:** Lay groundwork for development of guidance
- **WGD-6:** Further discuss draft guidance
 - Review outline and elements for guidance document on safety and LUP
 - Reach final agreement on a draft decision clarifying the scope of mutual assistance
 - Discuss draft TOR of the WGI with compliance elements (if compliance mechanism be introduced)
- **WGD-7:** Finalize draft guidance
 - Review updated draft guidance document on safety and LUP
 - Agree on draft TOR of the WGI with compliance elements (if compliance mechanism be introduced)
- Support by small group of legal experts and experts on LUP





Workplan for 2015-2016: Opening

- The following workplan is suggested:
 - **WGD-5**: Discuss draft text for the opening, commence the discussion of issues related to the opening
 - **WGD-6**: Agree on (updated) draft text for the opening, continue discussing aspects related to the opening
 - **WGD-7**: Finalize considering issues linked to the opening of the Convention





Thank you for your attention

